

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): An apparatus for sending a ringing signal to notify a called terminal of the presence of an incoming call addressed thereto, comprising:

ringing voltage generating means for generating a ringing voltage;

ringing signal sending means for sending out a ringing signal over a subscriber line by outputting the ringing voltage with a predetermined duty cycle of a ringing period and a silent period;

A data transfer means for performing a data transfer to the called terminal over the subscriber line during one of the silent periods;

~~feed impedance setting means for providing a high-impedance feed voltage; and~~

feed impedance selection means for selecting a low-impedance feed voltage in the one of the silent periods during which the data transfer is performed, and selecting the a high-impedance feed voltage in ~~the~~ other silent periods during which no data transfer is performed; and

feed impedance setting means for providing the high-impedance feed voltage to the subscriber line when said feed impedance selection means selects feeding of the high-impedance feed voltage, wherein the high-impedance feed voltage is realized by inserting a predetermined resistance on the subscriber line in series with a subscriber line circuit (SLIC) that drives the subscriber line, while the low-impedance feed voltage is provided by removing the predetermined resistance from the subscriber line.

2.(original): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising path set-up means for establishing a path to the called terminal only when the data transfer is scheduled.

3. (cancelled)

4.(original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said ringing voltage generating means comprises a ringing voltage source and a ringing signal bias voltage source; and

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said feed impedance setting means comprises a resistor coupled to one of said ringing voltage source, said ringing signal bias voltage source, and said ringing voltage generating means itself.

5.(original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said feed impedance selection means selects the high-impedance feed voltage during a short interrupt period which is contained as part of the ringing period.

6.(original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said feed impedance selection means selects the high-impedance feed voltage for a predetermined period at the beginning and end of the one of the silent periods during which the data transfer is performed.

7.(currently amended): An apparatus for sending a ringing signal to inform a caller of the presence of an incoming call addressed thereto, comprising:

ringing voltage generating means for generating a ringing voltage;

ringing signal sending means for sending out a ringing signal over a subscriber line by outputting the ringing voltage with a predetermined duty cycle of a ringing period and a silent period;

~~feed impedance setting means for providing a high-impedance feed voltage; and~~

feed impedance selection means for selecting ~~the~~ a high-impedance feed voltage in the silent period to drive the subscriber line; and

feed impedance setting means for providing the high-impedance feed voltage to the subscriber line when said feed impedance selection means selects feeding of the high-impedance feed voltage,

wherein the high-impedance feed voltage is realized by inserting a predetermined reistance on the subscriber line in series with a subscriber line circuit (SLIC) that drives the subscriber line.

8.(original): The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said impedance selection means selects the high-impedance feed voltage during a short interrupt period which is contained as part of the ringing period.
